07 — 31 — 00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Box New Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney Docket No.: 2177804400
Application Number: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned
Examiner: Unassigned
PTO Customer Number: 022872

Dear Honorable Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is an original utility patent application of:

Koichi KOKUSHO, a citizen of JAPAN, residing in Tokyo, JAPAN; and having a post office address consisting of: c/o Sony Corporation; 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome; Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN;

entitled: PRINT ORDER/DELIVERY SYSTEM AND METHOD, DIGITAL CAMERA, CLIENT INFORMATION REGISTRATION DEVICE, ORDERING TERMINAL, AND PRINTING SYSTEM.

Enclosed are the following:

1. ☒ Specification, abstract and claims of 51 pages.
2. ☒ ___8___ sheets of ☒ formal ☐ informal drawings ☐ No drawings.
3. ☒ Declaration and Power of Attorney form PTO/SB/106 (original or copy) by the named inventors.
4. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
5. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
6. ☒ Other: One original and one copy of three pages of assignment documents.

Kindly NOTE the following:

7. ☐ Applicant is a small entity. Copy of Small Entity Statement (unsigned) enclosed – 50% Filing Fee Reduction (if applicable)
8. ☐ The prior application is assigned to
9. This application is a:
   ☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-Part (CIP) of Prior Application
10. ☒ Priority of the following application is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119:

Serial No.	Date Filed	Country	Certified Copy of Priority Doc. Filed	
			USSN or PCT#	Date
P11-217771	July 30, 1999	JAPAN		Filed on an even date herewith

11. ☐ An Extension of Time is filed concurrently herewith for the parent application.
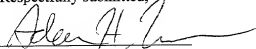12. ☐ Cancel claims _____ prior to calculation of the filing fee.

FILING FEE: calculated below (after accounting for any preliminary amendment or claims cancellations if noted above):

☒	Total Claims	23	Total Claims Subject to Fees: 3	$54.00
☒	Independent Claims	6	Total Claims Subject to Fees: 3	$234.00
☐	Multiple Dependent Claims	0	Total Claims Subject to Fees: 0	$0.00
☒	Basic Filing Fee			$690.00
☐	Extension Fees			$0.00
	Sub-Total			**$978.00**
☐	Less Small Entity Fee Reduction			$0.00
☒	Assignment Recordal Fees			$40.00
	Total Fees			**$1,018.00**

☒ Enclosed is check number 469095 in the amount of $1,018.00 for the filing fees above-mentioned. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or additional fee due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account No. 03-3821, **referencing Attorney Docket No. 21778.04400. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed for this purpose.**

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication and which may be required under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 03-3821, **referencing Attorney Docket No. 21778.04400. An additional duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed, for this purpose, if necessary.**

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 28, 2000
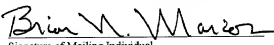
By: Adam H. Tachner
Registration No.: 40,343

Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May
Two Embarcadero Center, Suite 2000
P.O. Box 7936, San Francisco, CA 94120-7936
(415) 543-8700 Voice, (415) 391-8269 Fax

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:
    Koichi KOKUSHO

For: PRINT ORDER/DELIVERY SYSTEM AND
METHOD, DIGITAL CAMERA, CLIENT
INFORMATION REGISTRATION DEVICE,
ORDERING TERMINAL, AND PRINTING
SYSTEM

Serial No.

Filed: July 29, 2000

Examiner:

Group Art Unit:

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Box Assignment
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

    Enclosed is an Assignment with attached Assignment Recordation Cover Sheet (Form PTO-1595). Payment for recording this Assignment is included in the transmittal letter with respect to filing this patent application. Applicant kindly requests the recordation of the enclosed documents.

    The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication and which may be required under 37 CFR § 1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 03-3821, **referencing Attorney Docket No. 21788.04400. A duplicate sheet is attached.**

Dated: July 28, 2000

Two Embarcadero Center, Ste. 2000
PO Box 7936
San Francisco, CA 94120-7936
(415) 543-8700 Telephone
(415) 391-8269 Facsimile

Respectfully submitted,
Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May
Professional Corporation

By:
Name: Adam H. Tachner
Registration No. 40,343
Attorneys for Applicant

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Koichi KOKUSHO

Examiner:

For: PRINT ORDER/DELIVERY SYSTEM AND
METHOD, DIGITAL CAMERA, CLIENT
INFORMATION REGISTRATION DEVICE,
ORDERING TERMINAL, AND PRINTING
SYSTEM

Group Art Unit:

Serial No.

Filed: July 29, 2000

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
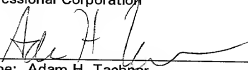Box Assignment
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed is an Assignment with attached Assignment Recordation Cover Sheet (Form PTO-1595). Payment for recording this Assignment is included in the transmittal letter with respect to filing this patent application. Applicant kindly requests the recordation of the enclosed documents.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication and which may be required under 37 CFR § 1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 03-3821, **referencing Attorney Docket No. 21788.04400. A duplicate sheet is attached.**

Respectfully submitted,
Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May
Professional Corporation

Dated: July 28, 2000

By: _____
Name: Adam H. Tachner
Registration No. 40,343
Attorneys for Applicant

Two Embarcadero Center, Ste. 2000
PO Box 7936
San Francisco, CA 94120-7936
(415) 543-8700 Telephone
(415) 391-8269 Facsimile

PRINT ORDER/DELIVERY SYSTEM AND METHOD, DIGITAL CAMERA,

CLIENT INFORMATION REGISTRATION DEVICE, ORDERING TERMINAL,

AND PRINTING SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a print order/delivery system and method, a digital camera, a client information registration device, an ordering terminal, and a printing system, and more particularly, is suitably applied to, for instance, an order/delivery system of a digital print.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

According to the conventional method, when giving an order for a print of a silver film photograph, one takes a film with which a shooting has been performed along to a window of a print shop and such, so as to make a request of developing and printing, and then goes to there in order to accept the printed photograph after the specified date.

Recently, a digital camera, which takes in a picture electronically, has appeared, and so such aspect of print service is being performed that a recording medium such as a memory card and a floppy disk on which pictorial data has been recorded or a digital camera itself is carried in the

1

window of a print shop and such.

By the way, according to such conventional method, there is a troublesome problem that the orderer is required to go to the window of a print shop and the like no less than two times so as to give the order for prints and to receive them.

Besides, in recent years, a colour printer for use at home has come into widespread use; however, when a large quantity of printing is to be performed, it requires considerable time and effort, and, in a few cases, the cost of a printer and a print material becomes a large burden.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing, an object of the invention is to provide a print order/delivery system and method, a digital camera, a client information registration device, an ordering terminal, and a printing system capable of rendering a print order easier.

The foregoing objects and other objects of the invention have been achieved by the provision of a print order/delivery system which comprises: a storage means for storing identification data; a registration means for registering the user in such a way as to associate him with the identification data; an ordering means for transmitting pictorial data to the print order receiving side along with

the identification data and order data; and a user
management means for recognizing the orderer out of the
registered users, on the basis of the identification data
which is transmitted from the ordering means.

As the result of this, in this print order/delivery
system, the orderer of a print is able to give an order via
the ordering means without going to the window of a print
shop and such, therefore, the burden on the orderer can be
reduced. Besides, in this print order/delivery system, at
the time of giving the order for a print, the previously
assigned identification data is transmitted to the print
order receiving side along with the pictorial data and the
order data, therefore, the orderer is able to give the order
for a print through a simple procedure, and so the burden on
the orderer of a print can be further reduced.

Besides, the present invention provides a print
order/delivery method which comprises the steps of: storing
previously assigned unique identification data which is
performed on the user side, and registering the user in such
a way as to associate him with the identification data;
transmitting pictorial data to the print order receiving
side along with the identification data and order data; and
recognizing the orderer out of the registered users on the
basis of the supplied identification data, and delivering
the resulted print of the picture to the very orderer, which

are performed on the print order receiving side.

As the result of this, according to this print order/delivery method, the orderer of a print is able to give an order via the ordering means without going to the window of a print shop and such, therefore, the burden on the orderer can be reduced. Besides, according to this print order/delivery method, at the time of giving the order for a print, the previously assigned identification data is transmitted to the print order receiving side along with the pictorial data and the order data, therefore, the orderer is able to give the order for a print through a simple procedure, and so the burden on the orderer of a print can be further reduced.

Further, the present invention provides a digital camera comprising a storage means for storing unique identification data previously assigned to the digital camera.

As a result, according to this digital camera, recognition can be performed on the basis of the identification data stored in the storage means.

Still further, the present invention provides a client information registration device comprising an identification data assigning means for previously assigning unique identification data to a digital camera.

As a result, according to this client information

4

registration device, the digital camera can be recognized on the basis of the identification data assigned by the identification data assigning means.

Furthermore, the present invention provides an ordering terminal device comprising a data inputting means for inputting pictorial data of the picture and the identification data from a digital camera which is previously assigned unique identification data.

As a result, according to this ordering terminal device, it is possible to determine from which digital camera the pictorial data is inputted on the basis of the inputted identification data.

Furthermore, the present invention provides a printing system for printing a picture taken by a digital camera having identification data previously assigned comprising: a receiving means for receiving identification data and user information transmitted from a registration means side which registers a user associated with the identification data or receiving pictorial data of the picture, the identification data and order data transmitted from a print ordering side; a printing means for printing a picture based on the pictorial data on the basis of the received order data; and a user management means for recognizing the orderer out of the registered users on the basis of the received identification data.

5

As a result, according to this printing system, an orderer of a print can be recognized easily and accurately.

The nature, principle and utility of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which like parts are designated by like reference numerals or characters.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a configuration of a print order/delivery system according to the embodiment;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a digital still camera according to the embodiment;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a registration device;

Fig. 4 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a client computer;

Fig. 5 is a schematic diagram showing an order panel;

Fig. 6 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a dedicated terminal device;

Fig. 7 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a user management and order receiving computer;

Fig. 8 is a schematic diagram used for explaining the

other embodiment; and

Fig. 9 is a schematic diagram used for explaining the other embodiment.

<u>DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENT</u>

Preferred embodiments of this invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings:

(1) Configuration of Print Order/Delivery System of the Embodiment

Referring to Fig. 1, a print order/delivery system of the embodiment generally designated as 1 is comprised of a registration device 3 for assigning a unique identification code to a digital still camera 2, a client computer 4 and a dedicated terminal device 5 which are utilized for giving an order for a print of a picture taken in electronically by the digital still camera 2, and a user managing and order receiving computer 7 of a print order receiving side system division 6 placed on the print order receiving side, which are connected to each other via a network 8 such as a telephone line network or the Internet.

In this case, the digital still camera 2 is adapted to communicating with the registration device 3, the client computer 4, and the dedicated terminal device 5, by the use of the stated communication mode, such as the Institute Electrical and Electronics Engineer (IEEE), the Universal

Serial Bus (USB), infrared communication, and wireless
communication, and adapted to transferring the pictorial
data which has been obtained by picture-taking to the client
computer 4 or the dedicated terminal device 5 in accordance
with a data transfer request sent from the client computer 4
or the dedicated terminal device 5.

Besides, the registration device 3 is placed on a
distributor and such of a digital still camera 2, and
adapted to assigning a unique identification code to a
digital still camera 2. In addition, the registration
device 3 is adapted to inputting the required various
information (hereinafter, this is referred to as user
information) such as the name, the address, and the
telephone number of the user of the digital still camera 2,
and the account number of a bank or a post office, and sends
the inputted user information data to the user managing and
order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side
system division 6 via the network 8.

The client computer 4 is an ordinary personal computer
which belongs to, for instance, the user of the digital
still camera 2, and the stated program for giving an order
to a print dealer (hereinafter, this is referred to as a
print order program) has been previously installed therein.

This print order program has been obtained and
downloaded through a communication with the user managing

8

and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving
side system division 6. And, on the basis of this print
order program, the client computer 4 is able to communicate
with the digital still camera 2 and to take in the pictorial
data from the digital still camera 2 along with the data of
the above-mentioned identification code (hereinafter, this
is referred to as identification data), and also able to
read the pictorial data and the identification data from the
memory card 9 which has been taken out of the digital still
camera 2 and then charged in a card slot (not shown).

Besides, on the basis of the print order program, the
client computer 4 displays the stated order panel in
response to the user manipulation. As a result of this,
utilizing this order panel, the user is able to select such
a picture that he or she intends to give an order for a
print of it, out of the pictures based on the pictorial data
taken in from the digital still camera 2 or a memory card 9,
and also able to select the number of the print sheets, the
print size, the type of the printing paper and the like with
respect to the very picture.

And, the data of the order contents which has been
inputted in this manner (hereinafter, this is referred to as
the order data) is sent to the user managing and order
receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side
system division 6, via the network 8, along with the

corresponding pictorial data and the identification data.

On the other hand, the dedicated terminal device 5, which is placed on a convenience store and such, is adapted to communicating with the digital still camera 2 and to taking in the pictorial data which has been obtained by picture-taking from the digital still camera 2 along with the identification data, and also adapted to reading the pictorial data and the identification data from the memory card 9 which has been taken out of the digital still camera 2 and then charged in a card slot (not shown).

And, the dedicated terminal device 5 displays the order panel based on the above-mentioned print order program which has been previously installed, in response to the manipulation of the user; and then it sends the order data, which is comprised of the data of the order contents inputted utilizing the order panel, to the user managing and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side system division 6, along with the pictorial data and the identification data which have been obtained by communication with the digital still camera 2 or by reading out of the memory card 9, via the network 8.

The print order receiving side system division 6 is comprised of the user managing and order receiving computer 7, a mail destination printer 10, a receipt printer 11, and a printing division 14; the printing division 14 is, in turn,

10

comprised of a printing control computer 12 and a plural
number of picture printers 13_1 to 13_n.

In this case, the user managing and order receiving
computer 7 sequentially registers user information data,
which are given from the registration device 3 via the
network 8, on a database for user-managing purpose
(hereinafter, this is referred to as a user-managing
database), in such a way as to associate them with their
corresponding identification codes.

Besides, if order data has been given from the client
computer 4 or the dedicated terminal device 5 after this,
the user managing and order receiving computer 7 sends the
pictorial data which is transferred together with the very
order data to the printing control computer 12 of the
printing division 14.

And, the printing control computer 12 exposes the
supplied pictorial data to the stated signal processing as
necessary, sends the resulted pictorial data to one of the
picture printers 13_1 to 13_n which is unused at that time, and
causes it to print a picture based on the very pictorial
data hereby.

Besides, the user managing and order receiving computer
7 recognizes the user who has given the order for the print,
on the basis of the identification code which is given
together with the order data and the user-managing database,

and then causes the mail destination printer 10 to print the mail destination such as the name and the address of the very user on an envelope.

Besides, the user managing and order receiving computer 7 calculates the charge of the print on the basis of the order data, and then, on the basis of the result of the calculation, requests the banking organ to pull down the charge from the account of the user who has given the order for the print; on the other hand, it causes the receipt printer 11 to print the receipt based on the result of the calculation of the print charge.

So, the print dealer enters the photograph which has been printed by the picture printers 13_1 to 13_n in an envelope on which the mail destination has been printed by the mail destination printer 10, along with the receipt which has been printed by the receipt printer 11, and then delivers the printed photograph through the post.

Thus, in this print order/delivery system 1, the user who intends to give an order for a print is able to give the order for a print of the picture which has been taken utilizing the digital still camera 2 and receive it, without going to the stated window.

(2) Detail Configuration of Each Device

(2 - 1) Configuration of Digital Still Camera 2

At here, the digital still camera 2 has a configuration shown in Fig. 2, gathers the optical image of an object on the light-receiving surface of a Charge Coupled Device (CCD) 21 via a lens 20, effects photoelectric conversion of the optical image with the CCD 21, and sends the resulted image signal S1 to an analog-to-digital conversion circuit 22.

The analog-to-digital conversion circuit 22 effects digital conversion of the image signal S1, and sends the resulted image data D10 to a digital signal processor 23. The digital signal processor 23 applies the stated signal processing to the image data D10, and sends the resulted pictorial data D11 to a picture display division 24 which is comprised of a liquid crystal displaying panel and such, so as to cause it to display the picture based on the very pictorial data D11.

Besides, the digital signal processor 23 sends the pictorial data D11 to also a Joint Photographic Coding Experts Group (JPEG) encoder 25. At this time, to the JPEG encoder 25, an encode instruction C1 is given from a Central Processing Unit (CPU) 28 at the instant when the user has performed pressing manipulation of a shutter button 27 (Fig. 1) of a control panel 26.

Then, the JPEG encoder 25 stores the pictorial data D11 of the quantity which corresponds to one picture in a memory 29 at the instant when the encode instruction C1 has been

given, and also effects compression coding of this data on the basis of the JPEG standard, and then sends the resulted encoded pictorial data D12 to a card interface circuit 30.

The card interface circuit 30 sequentially stores the supplied encoded pictorial data D12 in a buffer memory 31, and reads out the data at the stated timing, so as to store the data in the corresponding storage area of a memory in the memory card 9, sequentially.

In this way, this digital still camera 2 encodes the pictorial data D11 of the instant when the press-down manipulation of the shutter button 27 has been performed, and records it in the memory card 9.

Besides, the digital still camera 2 is provided with a data input/output division 32 for performing communication with a registration device 3, a client computer 4 and a dedicated terminal device 5 as stated above; the CPU 28 and the card interface circuit 30 are connected to the very data input/output division 32.

In this case, the CPU 28 stores the above-mentioned identification data D13 which has been obtained through the communication with the registration device 3 in a non-volatile memory 33 such as an Electrically Erasable and Programmable Read Only Memory (EEPROM) and the like which has been previously placed in the inside of the digital still camera 2.

14

After this time, when a memory card 9 has been charged in the inside of the enclosure, the CPU 28 reads the identification data D13 from the non-volatile memory 33 and sends it to the card interface circuit 30, so as to cause the stated storage area of the memory included in the memory card 9 to record this identification data D13.

In addition, after this time, when the picture-taking mode has been selected and the press-down manipulation of the shutter button 27 has been performed in that status, the CPU 28 controls the required circuit in a manner so as to cause it to record the pictorial data (encoded pictorial data D12) of the instant when the press-down manipulation of the shutter button 27 has been performed on the memory included in the memory card 9.

And, after this time, when a transfer instruction of the pictorial data has been given through communication with an external device such as the client computer 4 and the dedicated terminal device 5, the CPU 28 controls the card interface circuit 30 in a manner so as to cause it to read the pictorial data which has been obtained by picture-taking (encoded pictorial data D12) from the memory card 9 along with the identification data D13, and to send this to the partner of the communication (the client computer 4 or the dedicated terminal device 5) via the data input/output division 32.

Thus, the digital still camera 2 is adapted to sending the pictorial data which has been obtained by picture-taking (encoded pictorial data D12) to the partner of the communication along with the identification data D13, in response to the request sent from the client computer 4 or the dedicated terminal device 5.

(2 - 2) Configuration of Registration Device 3

On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 3, the configuration of the registration device 3 is such that a CPU 40, a network interface circuit 41, a display processing division 42, a manipulating division 43, and a data sending division 44 are connected to each other via a bus 45, and a display unit 46 is connected to the display processing division 42.

In this case, when the inputting mode of the user information has been selected after the digital still camera 2 has been set to the stated status, the CPU 40 controls the display processing division 42 in a manner so as to cause it to display the stated registration screen which is used for inputting the user information such as the name, the address, the telephone number and the account number of the user on the display unit 46.

And, when the manipulating division 43 has been manipulated in this status and the required user information

such as the user's name has been inputted hereby and, after this, the registration request has been given, the CPU 40 transfers the user information D20 to the user management and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side system division 6 along with the user registration request via the network interface division 41.

Besides, the CPU 40 gives the identification data D13 which is given from the user management and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side system division 6 as the result of this to the digital still camera 2 via the data outputting division 44, and causes it to store this.

Thus, the registration device 3 is adapted to assigning an identification code to a digital still camera 2, and to registering a user in such a way as to associate him with the very identification code.

(2 - 3) Configuration of Client Computer 4

As shown in Fig. 4, the configuration of the client computer 4 is such that a CPU 50, a ROM 51, a RAM 52, a network interface circuit 53, a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) interface circuit 54, a display processing division 55, a card interface circuit 56, a data input/output division 57 and interface circuits 58 and 59 are connected to each other via a bus 60, and a hard-disk drive 61, a display unit 62, a mouse 63 and a keyboard 64

are respectively connected to the SCSI interface circuit 54, the display processing division 55, the interface circuit 58 and the interface circuit 59.

In this case, when the command for capturing pictorial data from the digital still camera 2 has been given by manipulation of the mouse 63 or the keyboard 64, the CPU 50 sends the transfer request of the pictorial data to the digital still camera 2 via the data input/output division 57 so as to cause the digital still camera 2 to transfer the encoded pictorial data D12 and the identification data D13 as stated above, or reads out the encoded pictorial data D12 and the identification data D13 from the memory card 9 which has been taken out of the digital still camera 2 and then charged in the card slot (not shown), via the card interface circuit 56.

And, by giving the encoded pictorial data D12 and the identification data D13, which have been obtained in this manner, to the hard-disk drive 61 via the SCSI interface circuit 54, the CPU 50 records the encoded pictorial data D12 and the identification data D13 on the stated area of a hard disk included in the hard-disk drive 61.

Besides, when such an instruction that the above-mentioned print order program has to be downloaded has been given from the print dealer on the basis of manipulation of the mouse 63 or the keyboard 64, the CPU 50 sends the

transfer request of its data (hereinafter, this is referred
to as print order program data) D21 to the user management
and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving
side system division 6, via the network
interface circuit 53.

And, via the data input/output division 57, the CPU 50
captures the print order program data D21 which has been
transferred, as a result of this, from the user management
and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving
side system division 6, and then stores it in the RAM 52.

And, the CPU 50 sends the pictorial data for the order
panel, which is included in this captured print order
program data D21, to the display processing division 55, so
as to cause the display unit 62 to display such an order
panel 70 based on the very pictorial data as that which is
shown in Fig. 5.

In this case, this order panel 70 displays a data
transferring window 71, as well as thumb nail pictures 72A
to 72D of the respective pictures which have been captured
from the digital still camera 2 or the memory card 9 and
stored on the hard-disk drive 61.

And, the user is able to select such a picture that he
or she wishes to give an order for a print of it, by
dragging the thumb nail picture 72A to 72D of such a picture
that he wishes to give an order for a print of it, out of

the respective thumb nail pictures 72A to 72D which are
displayed in the order panel 70, and then dropping this into
a transferring box 73 included in the data transferring
window 71, through a mouse manipulation, or by clicking a
file-name inputting field 74 through a mouse manipulation,
and then inputting the file-name of the very picture via the
keyboard 64.

Besides, on this order panel 70, it is possible to
select a number of the ordered sheets by clicking a number-
of-ordered-sheets setting field 75A and then inputting the
desired number of the print sheets utilizing the keyboard 64,
or by clicking a pop-up menu button 75B of the right of the
number-of-ordered-sheets setting field 75A to cause it to
display the pop-up menu (not shown) and then clicking the
desired number out of the very pop-up menu. The number of
the ordered sheets which has been selected at this time is
displayed in the number-of-ordered-sheets setting field 75A.

In addition, on this order panel 70, it is possible to
select a print size by clicking a pop-up menu button 76B of
the right of the print-size setting field 76A to cause it to
display the pop-up menu (not shown) and then clicking the
desired size out of the very pop-up menu; the print size
which has been selected at this time is displayed in the
print-size setting field 76A.

In addition, on this order panel 70, it is possible to

select a printing paper by clicking a pop-up menu button 77B of the right of the printing-paper-type setting field 77A to cause it to display the pop-up menu (not shown) and then clicking the desired type of the printing paper out of the very pop-up menu; the type of the printing paper which has been selected at this time is displayed in the printing-paper-type setting field 77A.

And, after the user has selected a picture whose print should be ordered, the number of its print sheets, the print size, and the type of the printing paper, the user is able to select such a picture that he or she wishes to secondly give an order for a print of it, by clicking a next-file button 78.

In addition, when the selection of such all pictures that he or she wishes to give the orders for their prints and the selection of the number of the print sheets and the like of these pictures have been finished, the user would click a transfer button 79.

At this time, the CPU 50 would transfer the above-mentioned order data D23 which is comprised of the data of the number of the print sheets, the print size, and the type of the printing paper relevant to each picture which has been selected utilizing this order panel 70 to the user management and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side system division 6, along with the encoded

pictorial data D12 and the identification data D13 of the corresponding picture which are stored in the hard-disk drive 61, via the network interface circuit 53.

Thus, with the client computer 4, the user is able to give an order for the prints of the user's desired picture, on the basis of the print order program which has been downloaded from the user management and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side system division 6.

(2 - 4) Configuration of Dedicated Terminal Device 5

On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 6, the dedicated terminal device 5 has such a configuration that a CPU 80, a ROM 81, a RAM 82, a display processing division 83, an interface circuit 84, a card interface circuit 85, a data input/output division 86, and a network interface circuit 87 are connected to each other via a bus 88, and a display unit 89 and a manipulating division 90 are respectively connected to the display processing division 83 and the interface circuit 84.

In this case, when the digital still camera 2 has been set in the stated status, or when the memory card 9 which has been taken out from the digital still camera 2 has been charged in the card slot (not shown) via the card inserting/extracting slit 5A (Fig. 1) and then a capture

instruction of pictorial data has been inputted by manipulation of the manipulating division 90, the CPU 80 sends a transfer request of the pictorial data to the digital still camera 2 via the data input/output division 86, so as to cause the digital still camera 2 to transfer the encoded pictorial data D12 and the identification data D13 as stated above, or reads out the encoded pictorial data D12 and the identification data D13 from the memory card 9 which has been charged in the card slot, via the card interface circuit 85. And then, the CPU 80 stores these encoded pictorial data D12 and the identification data D13 in the RAM 82.

Next, the CPU 80 sends the pictorial data for the order panel out of the above-mentioned print order program which has been previously stored in the ROM 81 to the display processing division, thereby causing the display unit 89 to display the above-mentioned order panel 70 (Fig. 5). As a result of this, the user is enabled to select such a picture that he or she wishes to give an order for a print of it and to select the number of the print sheets, the print size, and the type of the printing paper, via the manipulating division 90, in the same way as the above, utilizing this order panel 70.

And, after this time, when the transfer button 79 of the order panel 70 has been pressed down by manipulation of

the manipulating division 90, the CPU 80 sends the order data D23 which is comprised of the data of the order contents which have been inputted utilizing this order panel 70 to the user management and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side system division 6 via the network interface circuit 87, along with the corresponding encoded pictorial data D12 and the identification data D13 which are stored in the RAM 82.

Thus, with the dedicated terminal device 5, the user is able to give an order for the prints, as with the case of the client computer 4.

(2 - 5) Configuration of Print-Order Receiving Side System Division 6

On the other hand, the print-order receiving side system division 6 is comprised of the user managing and order receiving computer 7, a mail destination printer 10, a receipt printer 11, and a printing division 14; the printing division 14 is composed of a printing control division 12 which is a personal computer and plural picture printers 13_1 to 13_n, as stated above.

And, as shown in Fig. 7, the user management and order receiving computer 7 has such a configuration that a CPU 100, a ROM 101, a RAM 102, a network interface circuit 103, a SCSI interface circuit 105, a display processing division

106, and plural interface circuits 107 to 111 are connected
to each other via a bus 112, and besides a hard-disk drive
113 and a display unit 114 are respectively connected to the
SCSI interface circuit 105 and the display processing
division 106, and besides a mouse 115, a keyboard 116, the
mail destination printer 10, the receipt printer 11, and the
printing control division 12 of the printing division 14 are
respectively connected to their corresponding interface
circuits 107 to 111.

In this case, when the user registration request and
the user information D20 have been given from the
registration device 3 via the network 8 as stated above, the
CPU 100 creates a unique identification code, and then sends
the above-mentioned identification data D13 which is
comprised of the data of the very identification code to the
registration device 3 via the network interface circuit 103.

Besides, via the SCSI interface circuit 105, the CPU
100 gives the user information D20 which has been obtained
at this time and the identification data D13 which has been
created at this time to the hard-disk drive 113, and causes
it to store them, thereby registering these user information
D20 and the identification data D13 in a database relevant
to the user information D20 (hereinafter, this is referred
to as a user-managing database) which is stored in the hard-
disk drive 113.

Besides, when the transfer request of the print order program has been given from the client computer 4 as stated above, the CPU 100 reads the very print order program from the ROM 101, and then transfers this to the client computer 4 which has given the transfer request, via the network interface circuit 103.

In addition, when the order data D23 has reached along with the encoded pictorial data D12 and the identification data D13 from the client computer 4 or the dedicated terminal device 5 via the network 8 after this time, the CPU 100 takes the order data D23 and the identification data D13 in the RAM 102, and sends the encoded pictorial data D12 to the printing control computer 12 of the printing division 14 via the interface circuit 111.

And, after this time, the CPU 100 judges whether the identification code based on the identification data D13 which has been taken in the RAM 102 has been registered in the user-managing database or not; when it has obtained the affirmative result, it sends the printing execute instruction as well as the order data D23 which has been taken in the RAM 102 to the printing control computer 12 of the printing division 14, via the interface circuit 111.

The printing control computer 12 is managing the operations of the plural picture printers 13_1 to 13_n as stated above, and, when the printing execute instruction and

the order data D23 have been given from the user management and order receiving computer 7, it sends pictorial data D31, which has been obtained by decoding the previously given encoded pictorial data D12, to one of the picture printers 13_1 to 13_n which is unused at this time, as stated above.

Besides, on the basis of the order data D23 which has been given from the user management and order receiving computer 7 together with this, the printing control computer controls the one of picture printers 13_1 to 13_n in a manner so as to cause it to perform printing of each picture by the specified number of sheets, with the print-size and the printing-paper which accord with the user's order.

Besides, at this time, in the case where the identification data D13 which has been taken in the RAM 102 is already registered in the user-managing database, the CPU 100 of the user management and order receiving computer 7 controls the mail destination printer 10 on the basis of the very user-managing database in a manner so as to cause it to print the name and the address of the very user on an envelope.

In addition, the CPU 100 calculates the charge of the prints on the basis of the order data D23, retrieves the banking organ on which the user's account has been opened on the basis of the user-managing database, accesses the computer of the very banking organ on the basis of the

27

result of the retrieval, and requests it to transfer the sums of the charge based on the result of the above-mentioned retrieval to the print dealer's account; on the other hand, the CPU 100 then controls the receipt printer device in a manner so as to cause the receipt printer 11 to print the receipt toward the very transference.

Thus, the print order receiving side system division 6 is able to perform printing which accords with the order, on the basis of the order data D23 and the encoded pictorial data D12 which are given from the client computer 4 or the dedicated terminal device 5; on the other hand, the print order receiving side system division 6 is able to recognize the orderer on the basis of the identification data D13 which is transferred and reached along with these order data D23 and encoded pictorial data D12, and able to perform transference of the printed photograph, deriving the charge, and the like.

(3) Operation and Effects of the Embodiment

In this print order/delivery system 1 having the above configuration, when the required user information such as the name, the address, the telephone number, and the account number of the user has been inputted to the registration device 3 after the digital still camera 2 has been set to the registration device 3 and set to the stated

status, the identification code would be assigned to the very digital still camera 2, on the other hand, the very user information is transferred to the user management and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side system division 6 via the network 8, and registered in the user-managing database in such a manner that the very user information is associated with the identification code.

And, when the user of the digital still camera 2 gives an order for prints to the print dealer by the use of the client computer 4, he or she sets the very digital still camera 2 to the stated status, or charges the memory card 9 which has been taken out of the very digital still camera 2 in the card slot of the client computer 4, and then inputs the required information relevant to the selection of the picture, and to the selection of the number of the print sheets, the print size, the type of the printing paper and so on, utilizing the order panel 70 which is displayed on the display unit 62, on the basis of the print order program which has been downloaded from the user management and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side system division 6, and then he or she clicks the transfer button 79 of the order panel 70.

When the user gives an order to the print dealer by the use of the dedicated terminal device 5, he or she sets the digital still camera 2 to the stated status, or charges the

memory card 9 which has been taken out of the very digital still camera 2 in the card slot of the dedicated terminal device 5, and then inputs the required information relevant to the selection of the picture, and to the selection of the number of the print sheets, the print size, the type of the printing paper and so on, utilizing the order panel 70 which has been displayed, manipulating the manipulating division 90 of the dedicated terminal device 5, and then he or she clicks the transfer button 79 of the order panel 70.

As a result of this, the order data D23 corresponding to the order contents which have been inputted by the user in this way is given to the user management and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side system division 6, along with the encoded pictorial data D12 and the identification data D13 which are needed, via the network 8.

And, the print order receiving side system division 6 judges whether the orderer is a registered user or not on the basis of the identification data D13 which is supplied along with the order data D23, and, if the orderer is a user who has been registered, decodes the encoded pictorial data D12 through the printing control computer 12, and then gives the decoded data to picture printers 13_1 to 13_n, thereby causing them to print the pictures based on the very encoded pictorial data D12 by the ordered number of sheets, with the

print size and the printing paper which accord with the order.

Moreover, in the print order receiving side system division 6, the mail destination is printed on an envelope on the basis of the order data D23 and the user-managing database, and the accounting is performed, so as to transfer the sum of the charge from the user's account to the dealer's own account, and then the receipt based on the very accounting is printed.

And, the printed photographs are entered in the envelope on which the mail destination has been printed by the print dealer along with the receipt, and then sent to the user by mail.

Therefore, in this print order/delivery system 1, a user is not required to go to the stated window at the time when giving the order for prints and also at the time when receiving them, and so the user's burden relevant to the ordering and receiving of the prints can be remarkably reduced.

Besides, in this print order/delivery system 1, the identification data D13 would be transferred to the print-order receiving side along with the encoded pictorial data D12 and the order data D23 at the time that a user gives an order for prints, and the very print dealer would recognize the user on the basis of this identification data D13 and

perform mailing and billing processes; therefore, even though any client computer 4 or any dedicated terminal device 5 is utilized, the user is able to make a request for printing with a simple procedure, and so the user's burden relevant to ordering and receiving of the prints can be further reduced.

According to the above configuration, ordering for prints is performed via the network 8 and delivering is performed by mail, and the charge of the prints is paid by transferring the sum from the bank account or the post account, since the user is able to omit going to the stated window in order to give the order for prints and to receive them, in this way, it is possible to realize a print order/delivery system which is able to make the ordering and receiving of the prints easy.

(4) Other Embodiments

In the above embodiment, such a case has been described that a non-volatile memory 33 has been used as the storage means for storing the identification data D13; however, we do not intend to limit the present invention to such, and other wide variety of storage means can be adopted.

Besides, in the above embodiment, such a case has been described that the client computer 4 and the dedicated terminal device 5, which are the ordering means for

32

transmitting the pictorial data (the encoded pictorial data D12) to the user management and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side system division 6 along with the identification data D13 and the order data D23, are constructed as shown in Fig. 4 and Fig. 6; however, we do not intend to limit the present invention to such, and other wide variety of configurations can be adopted.

In addition, in the above embodiment, such a case has been described that the source of the pictorial data (the encoded pictorial data D12) is a digital still camera 2 or a storing medium (the memory card 9) which had been charged in the very digital still camera 2; however, we do not intend to limit the present invention to such; it is possible to utilize other wide variety of electronic devices such as a scanner, a digital video camera, a client computer itself which has a computer graphics creating function. In this case, storing means for storing the identification data D13 can be placed in the electronic devices.

In addition, in the above embodiment, such a case has been described that a printing means for printing the picture based on the encoded pictorial data D12 which is supplied from the client computer 4 or the dedicated terminal device 5 on the basis of the order data D23 is comprised of the printing control computer 12 and the plural printers 13_1 to 13_n; however, we do not intend to limit the

present invention to such; the function of the printing control division can be installed in the user management and order receiving computer 7, and the printing control computer 12 can be omitted, in this way, other wide variety of configurations can be adopted as the configuration of the printing means.

In addition, in the above embodiment, such a case has been described the user management and order receiving computer 7, which serves, in the print order receiving side system division 6, as a user managing means for recognizing the orderer on the basis of the identification data D13 supplied from the client computer 4 or dedicated terminal device 5, is constructed as shown in Fig. 7; however, we do not intend to limit the present invention to such, and other wide variety of configurations can be adopted.

In addition, in the above embodiment, such a case has been described that the user managing and order receiving computer 7, which performs user management and print-order receiving processing, is also used as an accounting means for calculating the print charge on the basis of the order data D23 and for performing the stated accounting processing (for instance, transferring the sum between the accounts) on the basis of the result of the calculation; however, we do not intend to limit the present invention to such; alternatively, an accounting means like the above can be

provided apart from the user managing and order receiving computer 7 for performing user management and print-order receiving processing.

In addition, in the above embodiment, such a case has been described that only print-order function has been installed on the dedicated terminal device 5; however, we do not intend to limit the present invention to such; other functions such as reservation service relevant to tickets of a concert, an airplane and a train as well as mail-order service function can be added to the dedicated terminal device 5.

In addition, in the above embodiment, such a case has been described that the data such as the encoded pictorial data D12 is transmitted from the client computer 4 or the dedicated terminal device 5 to the user management and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side system division 6, via the network 8 such as a telephone line network and the Internet; however, we do not intend to limit the present invention to such; the data can be transmitted with a wireless system for instance, and other variety of methods can be adopted as the data transmission methods.

In addition, in the above embodiment, such a case has been described that the print dealer delivers the photographs, which are the results of the printing, to the

orderer by mail; however, we do not intend to limit the
present invention to such; the print dealer can inform the
orderer about a convenience store and the like near the
address of the orderer, and can let him go to the
convenience store to receive the photographs.

Besides, in a same manner as this, in the above
embodiment, such a case as been described that the print
dealer would receive the charge for the prints through
transferring the sum between the accounts; however, we do
not intend to limit the present invention to such; the print
dealer can receive the charge by means of the credit,
payment at the time when the prints are handed over, payment
for transferring the sum to the dealer's account, or a
registered mail. In this case, in the case of payment for
transferring the sum of the charge to the dealer's account,
a bill which can be utilized to pay the sum of the charge at
the window of a banking organ such as a bank and a post
office as well as a convenience store can be sent, instead
of the receipt, to the orderer of the prints along with the
photographs, by mail for instance.

In addition, such a system is also preferable that the
orderer can previously select out of such order methods and
paying methods of the charge, utilizing the order panel 70.

In addition, in the above embodiment, such a case has
been described that the order contents such as the number of

the print sheets are selected by means of the client computer 4 or the dedicated terminal device 5; however, we do not intend to limit the present invention to such; for instance, such a system is also preferable that a digital still camera 2 shown in Fig. 8 is provided with the respective manipulation buttons 120A - 120E for picture selection, number-of-sheets selection, size selection, printing paper selection, and data transfer command, so that, by manipulating these buttons, it is possible to input the data of picture selection, number-of-sheets selection, size selection, printing paper selection and the data transfer command at the time of print ordering, by means of the digital still camera 2, and it is possible to transmit the order data D23 that is corresponding to these inputted contents to the user management and order receiving computer 7 of the print order receiving side system division 6, via the client computer 4 or the dedicated terminal device 5. In this case, it is also preferable to cause the display unit 62 of the client computer 4 or the display unit 89 of the dedicated terminal device 5 to display an order panel 121 such as that which is shown in Fig. 9.

In addition, in the above embodiment, such a case has been described that the identification data D13 and the like are transferred from the client computer 4 and the dedicated terminal device 5 just as it is; however, we do not intend

to limit the present invention to such; the identification data D13 and the like can be enciphered and then transferred, so that leakage of the personal information can be prevented.

In addition, in the above-mentioned embodiment, such a case has been described that recognition of the orderer is performed on the basis of only the identification data D13, on the print-order receiving side; however, we do not intend to limit the present invention to such; such a system is also preferable that the enciphered number for user recognition and/or the user's own personal features such as the finger prints and the voice patterns are previously registered on the print-order receiving side, and the enciphered number which has been inputted via the inputting means placed in the client computer 4 or the dedicated terminal device 5 and/or the data of the finger prints or the voice patterns which have been detected by a detecting means of the finger prints or the voice pattern and the like are transferred to the print-order receiving side along with the identification data D13 at the time of print ordering, and then recognition of the user is performed on the print-order receiving side on the basis of this transferred data for recognition. In this way, illegal usage of the digital still camera 2 can be prevented efficiently.

In addition, in the above-mentioned embodiment, such a case has been described that the client computer 4 downloads

the print order program from the print-order receiving side, and displays such an order panel 70 as that which is shown in Fig. 5; however, we do not intend to limit the present invention to such; such an order panel can be displayed on the screen of a Web site which has been opened by the print-order receiving side, or the print order program can be distributed to the user side via a recording medium.

As described above, according to the present invention, a print order/delivery system comprises: a storage means for storing a previously assigned unique identification data; a registration means for registering the user in such a way as to associate him with the identification data; an ordering means for transmitting a pictorial data to the print-order receiving side along with the identification data and an order data; and a user management means for recognizing the orderer out of the registered users, on the basis of the identification data which is transmitted from the ordering means, on the print-order receiving side. By this, the burden on the print orderer can be reduced, in this way, it is possible to realize a print order/delivery system which can make print ordering easy.

Besides, according to the present invention, a print order/delivery method comprises the steps of: storing a previously assigned unique identification data which is performed on the user side, and registering the user in such

a way as to associate him with the identification data; transmitting pictorial data to the print order receiving side along with the identification data and order data; and printing the picture based on the supplied pictorial data on the basis of the order data, recognizing the orderer out of the registered users on the basis of the supplied identification data, and delivering the resulted prints of the picture to the very orderer, which are performed on the print-order receiving side. By this, the burden on the print orderer can be reduced, in this way, it is possible to realize a print order/delivery method which can make the print ordering and receiving easy.

Further, according to the present invention, a digital camera comprises a storage means for storing unique identification data previously assigned to the digital camera. By using this digital camera, it is possible to construct the print order/delivery system which can make the print ordering and receiving easy.

Still further, according to the present invention, a client information registration device comprises an identification data assigning means for previously assigning unique identification data to a digital camera. By using this client information registration device, it is possible to construct the print order/delivery system which can make the print ordering and receiving easy.

40

Furthermore, according to the present invention provides, an ordering terminal device comprises a data inputting means for inputting pictorial data of the picture and the identification data from a digital camera which is previously assigned unique identification data. By using this ordering terminal device, it is possible to construct the print order/delivery system which can make the print ordering and receiving easy.

Moreover, according to the present invention, a printing system for printing a picture taken by a digital camera having identification data previously assigned comprises: a receiving means for receiving identification data and user information transmitted from a registration means side which registers a user associated with the identification data or receiving pictorial data of the picture, the identification data and order data transmitted from a print ordering side; a printing means for printing a picture based on the pictorial data on the basis of the received order data; and a user management means for recognizing the orderer out of the registered users on the basis of the received identification data. By using this printing system, it is possible to construct the print order/delivery system which can make the print ordering and receiving easy.

While there has been described in connection with the

41

preferred embodiments of the invention, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be aimed, therefore, to cover in the appended claims all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

1.   A print order/delivery system comprising:

a storage means for storing unique identification data which has been previously assigned;

a registration means for registering the user in such a way as to associate him with said identification data;

an ordering means for transmitting pictorial data to the print order receiving side along with said identification data and order data;

a printing means, which is placed on said print order receiving side, for printing a picture based on said pictorial data which is transmitted from said ordering means, on the basis of said order data; and

a user management means, which is placed on said print order receiving side, for recognizing the orderer out of said registered users, on the basis of said identification data which is transmitted from said ordering means.

2.   The print order/delivery system according to claim 1, further comprising:

an accounting means for calculating the charge on the basis of said order data, and for performing the stated accounting processing on the basis of the result of the calculation.

3.   The print order/delivery system according to claim 1, wherein

said storing means is placed on a digital camera, which takes in a picture electronically; and

said ordering means takes said pictorial data and said identification data out of said digital camera or a recording medium which has been put on the very digital camera, and transmits the pictorial data and the identification data to said print order receiving side along with said order data.

4.   The print order/delivery system according to claim 3, further comprising:

an accounting means for calculating the charge on the basis of said order data, and for performing the stated accounting processing on the basis of the result of the calculation.

5.   A print order/delivery method comprising the steps of:

storing a previously assigned unique identification data which is performed on the user side, and registering said user in such a way as to associate him with said identification data;

transmitting pictorial data to the print order receiving side along with said identification data and order

data; and

printing a picture based on said supplied pictorial data on the basis of said order data, recognizing the orderer out of said registered users on the basis of said supplied identification data, and delivering the resulted print of said picture to the very orderer, which are performed on said print order receiving side.

6.　　The print order/delivery method according to claim 5, wherein

in the third step, the charge of said print is calculated on the basis of said order data, and the stated accounting processing is performed on the basis of the result of the very calculation.

7.　　The print order/delivery method according to claim 5, wherein

in the first step, said identification data is stored in a digital camera, which takes in a picture electronically; and

in the third step, said pictorial data and said identification data are taken out of said digital camera or a recording medium which has been put on the very digital camera, and the very pictorial data and identification data are transmitted to said print order receiving side along

with said order data.

8.   The print order/delivery method according to claim 7,
wherein

in the third step, the charge of said print is
calculated on the basis of said order data, and the stated
accounting processing is performed on the basis of the
result of the very calculation.

9.   A digital camera which takes in a picture
electronically comprising:

a storage means for storing unique identification
data previously assigned to said digital camera.

10.   The digital camera according to claim 9, further
comprising:

a communicating means for transmitting pictorial data
of said picture and said identification data.

11.   The digital camera according to claim 10, further
comprising:

a communicating means for taking out pictorial data of
said picture and said identification data from a storing
medium charged in said digital camera, and transmitting said
pictorial data and said identification data.

12. A client information registration device comprising:

an identification data assigning means for previously assigning unique identification data to a digital camera which takes in a picture electronically.

13. The client information registration device according to claim 12 further comprising:

an inputting means for inputting user information in such a way as to associate with said identification data.

14. The client information registration device according to claim 13 further comprising:

a transmitting means for transmitting said identification data and said user information to a print order receiving side.

15. An ordering terminal device comprising:

a data inputting means for inputting pictorial data of said picture and said identification data from a digital camera which takes in a picture electronically and is previously assigned unique identification data.

16. The ordering terminal device according to claim 15 comprising:

an inputting means for inputting order data for said picture; and

a transmitting means for transmitting said pictorial data and said identification data along with said order data to the print order receiving side.

17. The ordering terminal device according to claim 16, wherein

said inputting means for inputting order data for said picture inputs order data on a display panel on the basis of a print order program.

18. The ordering terminal device according to claim 16 further comprising:

a data inputting means for inputting pictorial data of said picture and said identification data from said digital camera or a storing medium charged in said digital camera;

an inputting means for inputting order data for said picture; and

a transmitting means for transmitting said pictorial data and said identification data along with said order data to a print order receiving side.

19. The ordering terminal device according to claim 18, wherein

said inputting means for inputting order data for said picture inputs order data on the basis of a print order program on a display panel.

20. A printing system for printing a picture taken by a digital camera having identification data previously assigned comprising:

a receiving means for receiving identification data and user information transmitted from a registration means side which registers a user associated with said identification data or receiving pictorial data of said picture, said identification data and order data transmitted from a print ordering side;

a printing means for printing a picture based on said pictorial data on the basis of said received order data; and

a user management means for recognizing the orderer out of said registered users on the basis of said received identification data.

21. The printing system according to claim 20 further comprising:

an accounting means for calculating the charge on the basis of said order data and performing the stated accounting processing on the basis of the result of said calculation.

22. The printing system according to claim 20, wherein
said user management means is provided with a database
containing said user information associated with said
identification data.

23. The printing system according to claim 21, wherein
said user management means is provided with a database
containing said user information associated with said
identification data.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A print order/delivery system and method, a digital camera, a client information registration device, an ordering terminal, and a printing system, wherein a previously assigned unique identification data is stored on the user side, and the user is registered such that the user is associated with the identification data, and pictorial data is transmitted to the print-order receiving side along with the identification data and order data, and then, on the print-order receiving side, the picture based on the supplied pictorial data is printed on the basis of the order data, and the orderer is recognized out of the registered users on the basis of the supplied identification data.
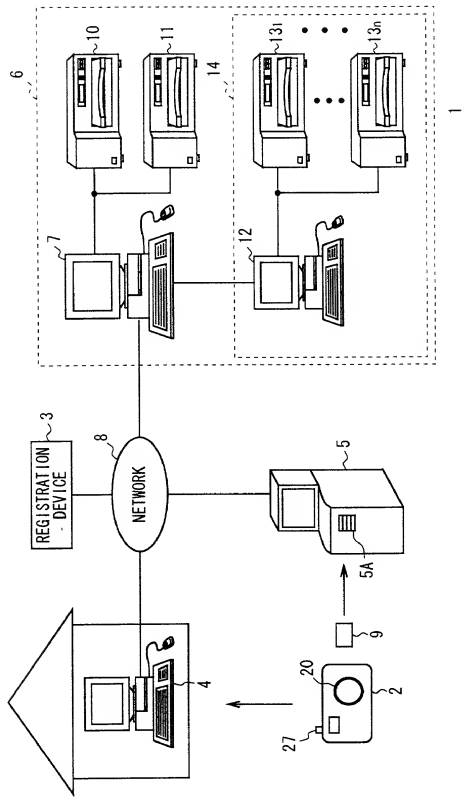
FIG.1

FIG.2

```
          ┌─────────┐
          │ DISPLAY │── 46
          └─────────┘
    42 ─┌──────────┐  43    3        44
        │ DISPLAY  │ ┌──────────┐ ┌──────────┐
        │PROCESSING│ │MANIPULATING│ │   DATA   │
        │ DIVISION │ │ DIVISION │ │ SENDING  │
        └──────────┘ └──────────┘ │ DIVISION │
                                  └──────────┘

        ┌─────────┐   ┌──────────┐
        │  C P U  │   │ NETWORK  │── 41
        └─────────┘   │INTERFACE │
             40       └──────────┘
                         D20, D13
```
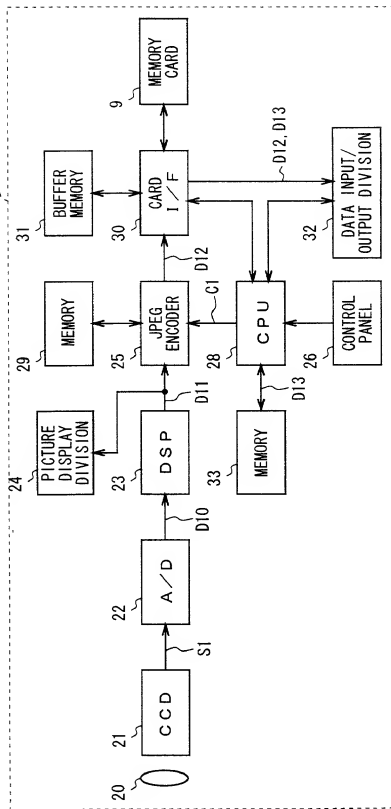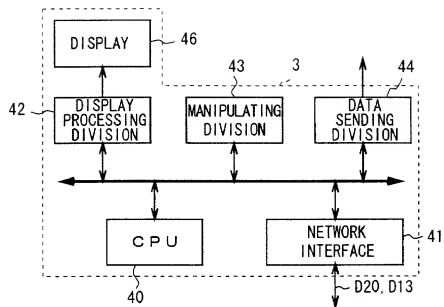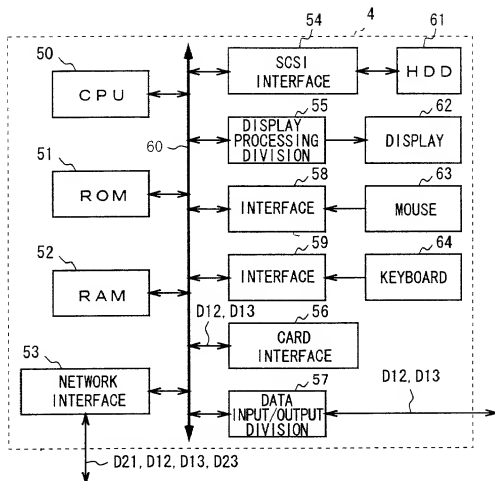
FIG.3

FIG.4

DATA TRANSFERRING WINDOW

WELCOME TO × × × ×

DRAG THE FILE TRANSFERRED IN THE LOWER TRANSFERRING BOX, OR

73 — 〒 ——→ IN

WRITE THE FILE-NAME TRANSFERRED IN THE LOWER FIELD

74 — FILE NAME :

TO SELECT NUMBER OF SHEETS, SIZE, AND TYPE OF PRINTING PAPER,
PLEASE USE THE LOWER FIELDS

NUMBER OF SHEETS : ONE ▽   SIZE : STANDARD ▽
                   75A 75B   76A   76B

                   TYPE OF PRINTING PAPER : STANDARD ▽
                                            77A   77B

TO SELECT THE NEXT FILE, CLICK THE LOWER RIGHT BUTTON

WHEN ENDED, CLICK THE LOWER RIGHT BUTTON

NEXT FILE   78

TRANSFER   79

70

71

72A — FOTO1

72B — FOTO2

72C — DOG2

72D — DOG1

FIG.5

FIG.6

FIG. 7

FIG. 8

DATA TRANSFERRING WINDOW

WELCOME TO × × × ×

SELECT PICTURE FILE, NUMBER OF SHEETS, SIZE, AND TYPE OF PRINTING PAPER TO BE TRANSFERRED, WITH YOUR CAMERA, AND THEN PUSH THE TRANSFER BUTTON

START OF TRANSFERRING

COMPLETION OF TRANSFERRING

END

FILE1

FILE2

FIG. 9

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。　　As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載され　　My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated
た通りです。　　next to my name.

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願　　I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name
している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下　　is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural
記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者である　　names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and
と（下記の名称が複数の場合）信じています。　　for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PRINT ORDER/DELIVERY SYSTEM AND
METHOD, DIGITAL CAMERA, CLIENT
INFORMATION REGISTRATION DEVICE,
ORDERING TERMINAL, AND PRINTING
SYSTEM

上記発明の明細書（下記の欄でx印がついていない場合は、　　the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following
本書に添付）は、　　box is checked:

☐　＿月＿日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約　　☐　was filed on ＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿
　　国際出願番号を＿＿＿＿＿＿とし、　　as United States Application Number or
　　（該当する場合）＿＿＿＿＿　に訂正されました。　　PCT International Application Number
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　＿＿＿＿＿＿　and was amended on
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　＿＿＿＿＿＿　(if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、　　I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of
内容を理解していることをここに表明します。　　the above identified specification, including the claims, as
　　amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第３７編第１条５６項に定義されると　　I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to
おり、特許資格の付無について重要な情報を開示する義務が　　patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations,
あることを認めます。　　Section 1.56.

PTO/SB/106 (8-96)
Approved for use through 9/30/98. OMB 0651-0032
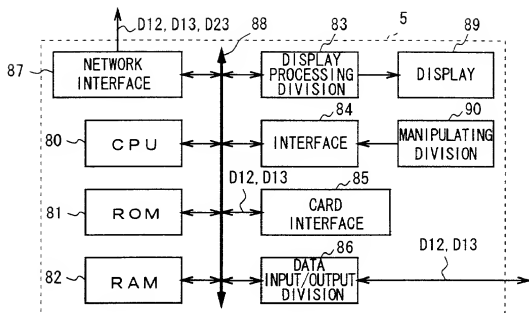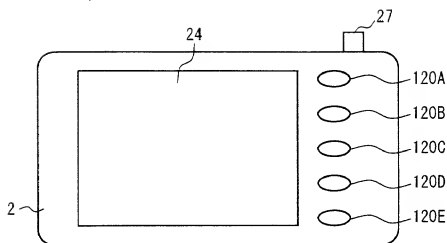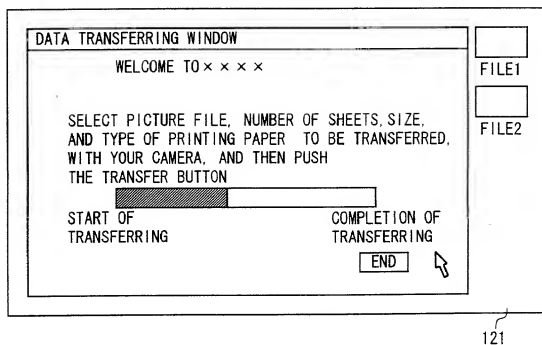Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Japanese Language Declaration
(日本語宣言書)

私は、米国法典第３５編１１９条 (a) - (d) 項又は３６５条 (b) 項に基き下記の、米国以外の国の少なくとも一ヶ国を指定している特許協力条約３６５ (a) 項に基づく国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、低を権を主張しています。本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国国願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)
外国での先行出願

Priority Not Claimed
優先権非主張なし

P11-217771	JAPAN	30/07/1999	☐
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	
(番号)	(国名)	(出願年月日)	
			☐
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	
(番号)	(国名)	(出願年月日)	
			☐
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	
(番号)	(国名)	(出願年月日)	

私は、第３５編米国法典１１９条 (e) 項に基いて下記の米国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

| (Application No.) | (Filing Date) | (Application No.) | (Filing Date) |
| (出願番号) | (出願日) | (出願番号) | (出願日) |

私は、下記の米国法典第３５編１２０条に基いて下記の米国特許出願に記載された権利、又は米国を指定している特許協力条約３６５条 (c) に基づく権利をここに主張します。また、本出願の各請求の範囲の内容が米国法典第３５編１１２条第１項又は特許協力条約で規定された米国先行する特許出願に開示されていない限り、その先行米国特許願書提出日以降で本出願書の日本国内または特許協力条約国際提出日までの期間中に入手された、連邦規則法典第３７編１条５６項で定義された特許事情の有無に関する重要な情報について開示義務があることを認識しています。

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

(Application No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(出願番号)	(出願日)	(現況：特許許可済、保留中、放棄済)
(Application No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(出願番号)	(出願日)	(現況：特許許可済、保留中、放棄済)

私は、私自身の知識に基づいて本宣言書中で私が行なう表明が真実であり、かつ私の入手した情報と私の信じるところに基づく表明が全て真実であると信じていること、さらに故意になされた虚偽の表明及びそれと同等の行為は米国法典第１８編第１００１条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、もしくはその両方により処罰されること、そしてそのような故意による虚偽の声明を行なえば、出願した、又は既に許可された特許の有効性が失われることを認識し、よってここに下記のごとく宣誓を致します。

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

PTO/SB/106 (8-96)
Approved for use through 9/30/98. OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Japanese Language Declaration
(日本語宣言書)

委任状： 私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の
手続きを米特許商標局に対して遂行する弁理上または代理人
として、下記の者を指名いたします。（弁護上、または代理
人の氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと）

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, t hereby appoint
the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this
application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark
Office connected therewith *(list name and registration number)*

J. William Wigert, Jr. Reg. No. 24,582	Doyle B. Johnson Reg. No. 39,240
Malcolm B Wittenberg Reg. No. 27,028	Adam H. Tachner Reg. No. 40,343
Nathan P Koenig Reg. No. 38,210	Dmitry Milikovsky Reg No 41,999

書類送付先

Send Correspondence to:

Adam H.TACHNER
Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May
P.O. Box 7936
San Francisco, CA 94120-7936

直接電話連絡先： （名前及び電話番号）

Direct Telephone Calls to: *(name and telephone number)*
Adam H. TACHNER -
(415) 543-8700

唯一または第一発明者名		Full name of sole or first inventor **KOICHI KOKUSHO**
発明者の署名	日付	Inventor's signature *Koichi Kokusho* Date June 28, 2000
住所		Residence **TOKYO, JAPAN**
国籍		Citizenship **Japanese**
私書箱		Post Office Address c/o **Sony Corporation** 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan
第二共同発明者		Full name of second joint inventor, if any
第二共同発明者	日付	Second inventor's signature Date
住所		Residence
国籍		Citizenship
私書箱		Post Office Address

（第三以降の共同発明者についても同様に記述し、署名をす
ること）

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent
joint inventors.)